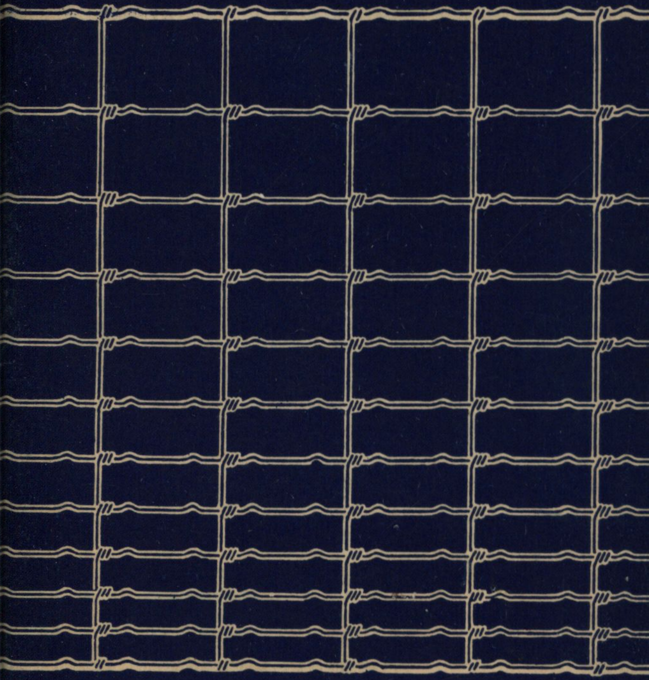
American Fence



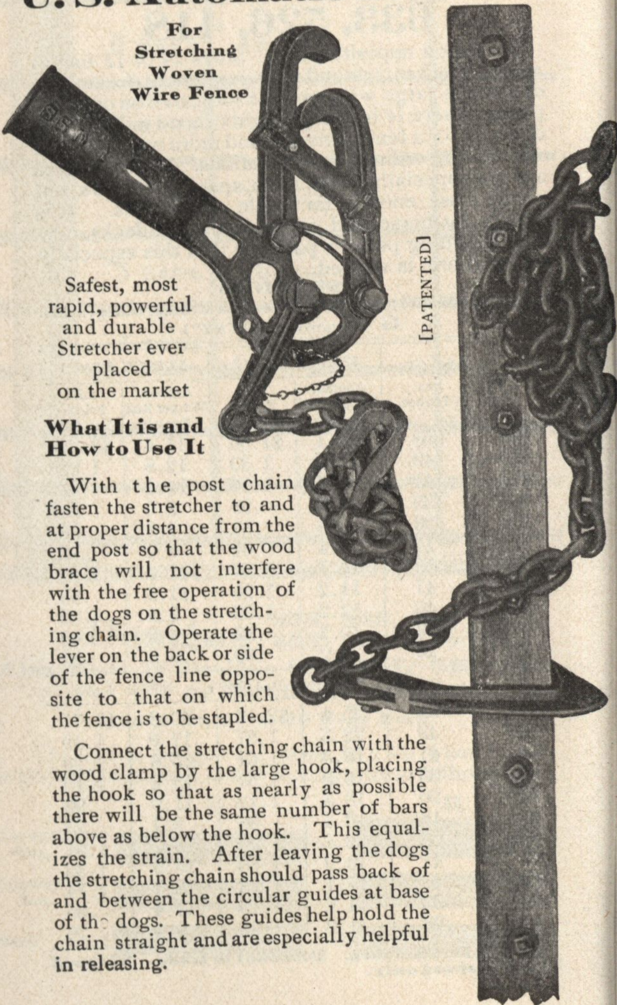
Catalogue 25 A

American Steel & Wire Co.

CHICAGO NEW YORK DENVER SAN FRANCISCO

U. S. Automatic Stretcher

For Stretching Woven Wire Fence



[PATENTED]

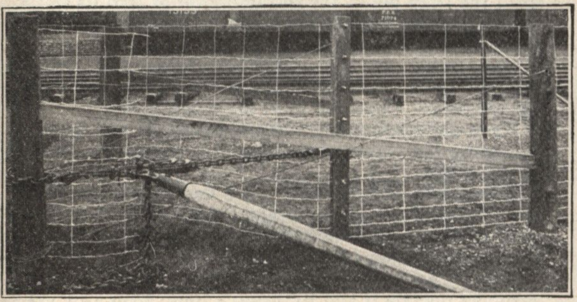
Safest, most
rapid, powerful
and durable
Stretcher ever
placed
on the market

What It is and How to Use It

With the post chain fasten the stretcher to and at proper distance from the end post so that the wood brace will not interfere with the free operation of the dogs on the stretching chain. Operate the lever on the back or side of the fence line opposite to that on which the fence is to be stapled.

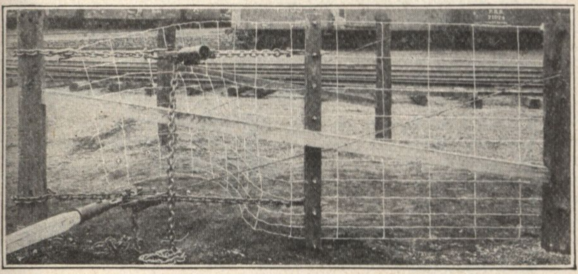
Connect the stretching chain with the wood clamp by the large hook, placing the hook so that as nearly as possible there will be the same number of bars above as below the hook. This equalizes the strain. After leaving the dogs the stretching chain should pass back of and between the circular guides at base of the dogs. These guides help hold the chain straight and are especially helpful in releasing.

A swivel is provided in the chain whereby the chain can be straightened either before the strain is put on or after a few links have been taken up. Be sure to get the stretching chain straight before any heavy pulling is done, as even a quarter twist in the chain will seriously interfere with the operation. The dogs should slip into place on the links without any pounding or other assistance. If the stretching chain is straight it should not be necessary to touch any part of the stretcher except the lever either in stretching or releasing.



U. S. Stretcher in Use Making Center Pull

For a lever use a good sound stick of wood, or 2½ inch pipe from 5 to 8 feet in length. The longer the lever, the greater strain you can put on the fence. To



Two U. S. Stretchers in Use Making Pull from Top and Bottom stretch the fence, simply move the lever forward and backward sufficiently to allow the dogs to engage the links of the chain.

To release the chain the movement is the same as in stretching except you go a little farther. In other words, to release you force the lever sharply toward the fence until the little pin in the spring case slips into its slot, then move the lever in the opposite direction and the foremost dog will back away from the chain and engage a lower link. After the lower link is engaged, again press the lever toward the fence and the other dog will be released. Continue until all strain is off.

Keep the working parts of the stretcher well oiled, including the points of the dogs that engage the links of the chain.

The clamp bars are steel lined and if the nuts are well turned down on the bolts, there will be no slipping of wires. The clamp bolts have square shoulders to prevent turning in the wood.

The U. S. is a one man stretcher. That is, one man can operate it and by using a long lever can get all the power necessary.

The U. S. Stretcher can be used singly pulling from center of clamp, or can be used in pairs pulling from top and bottom as illustrated on page 31.

All stretching chains are 8 feet in length.

We do not furnish levers. Shipping weight 95 lbs.

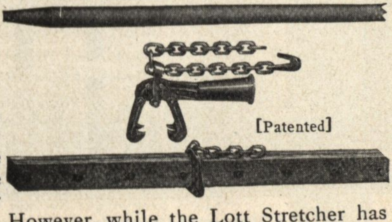
LIST PRICE

Effective January 12, 1909. Subject to change without notice.

U. S. Stretcher, each $8.00

F. O. B. Mills. Discount to trade

The Lott Stretcher



This illustration shows the Lott Stretcher, which is operated by a long lever much the same as the U.S. Stretcher is operated. However, while the Lott Stretcher has served a good purpose, it is not automatic either in stretching or releasing and cannot be compared with the U. S in saving time, ease of operation or safety.

All stretching chains are 8 feet in length

The Lott Stretcher can be used in pairs same as the U. S. Stretcher, if parties prefer to pull alternately from top and bottom of fence.

We do not furnish levers. Shipping weight, 85 lbs.

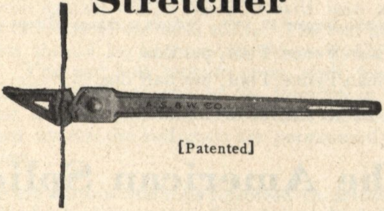
LIST PRICE

Effective January 12, 1909. Subject to change without notice.

Lott Stretchers, each	$7.00

F. O. B. Mills. Discount to trade.

A. S. & W. Single Wire Stretcher



[Patented]

This tool is meeting with great favor and is without doubt the only tool of the kind obtainable that fully and satisfactorily meets the requirements of a finishing stretcher. This tool in connection with the U. S. Stretcher constitutes a complete fence stretching outfit both for the farmer and professional fence builder.

It does not injure the wire but has a grip that never slips. It is all metal, hence very strong and durable. It works in any position. It is just the thing for tightening up barbed and smooth wire fences as well as woven wire fences By its use woven wire fence can be erected without losing a particle of the tension in removing the heavy stretcher. For illustration of some of its uses, see pages 40, 41, 42

Shipping weight, about 6 lbs.

LIST PRICES

Effective January 12, 1909. Subject to change without notice.

A. S. & W. Single Wire Stretcher, per doz.	$12.00
A. S. & W. Single Wire Stretcher, each	1.00

F. O. B. Mills. Discount to trade.

American Fence Tool

A very convenient tool made of fine steel, especially adapted to fence building purposes. It is a staple puller, hammer, cutter, plier, etc.

Shipping weight, per dozen, 32 lbs.
" " per half dozen, 17 lbs.

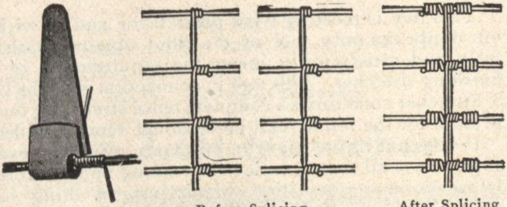
LIST PRICES

Effective January 12, 1909. Subject to change without notice.

American Fence Tool, per doz.	$12.00
American Fence Tool, per half doz.	6.00

F. O. B. Mills. Discount to trade.

The American Splicer



Before Splicing After Splicing

Necessary and convenient for splicing wire in woven wire fence or elsewhere. Inexpensive and does the work well.

Shipping weight per dozen, 3 lbs.

LIST PRICES

Effective January 12, 1909. Subject to change without notice.

American Splicer, per doz.	$0.75

F. O. B. Mills. Discount to trade.

Fence Building

The Whole Story

In fence building the first matter to be considered is the posts. The first two posts at either end of a fence line should be long enough to admit setting four to four and one-half feet in the ground and of such diameter as to withstand the strain of stretching and holding the fence taut after erected. The best practice places about 8 inches as the minimum diameter for end and second posts, while the maximum is often as great as 12 or 16 inches. As a general rule, the bigger the better and cheapest in the end. If possible leave the face of earth perpendicular on the side of the hole against which the post will lean and set the post close up to the solid earth. The end and second posts should be anchored as shown in Fig. A or Fig. B. The end and second posts with necessary braces and anchors constitute the foundation of the fence and it is folly to expect the best service from any fence unless the end posts are permanently fixed in position.

There are various methods followed in setting end posts, all of which have their friends and doubtless all are good if carefully and properly carried out. We illustrate below and on the following page two of the most popular forms of end post setting.

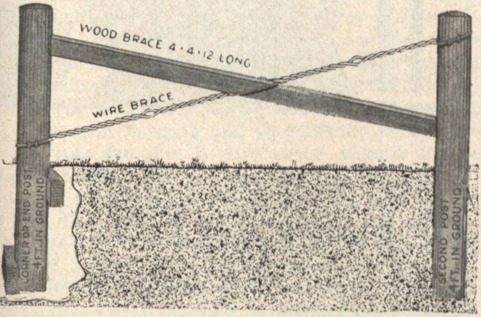
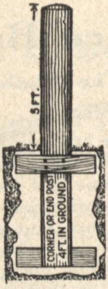


Fig. A



End post with anchors attached ready to set in accordance with plan shown on preceding page

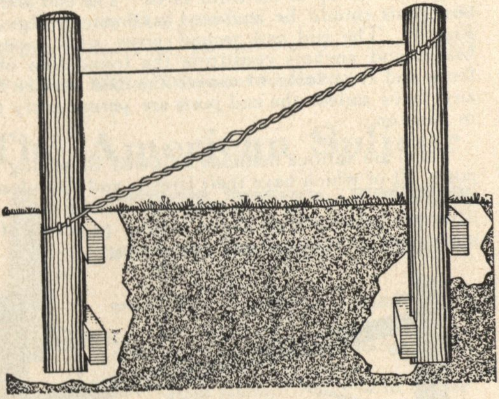


Fig. B

Anchors may be made of any solid chunk of wood that will give good bearing surface, but should not be less than equivalent to 2 in. x 6 in. x 24 in. long. If posts are round or irregular in shape dress off just enough to get good bearing surface for anchors. Spike or bolt anchors securely to post. Tamp every particle of earth in filling the holes so that the posts will be as solid as a tree.

Wood Brace

Referring to plan shown on page 35, next put in the wood brace. This should be not less than 12 feet long and say 4 in. x 4 in. in diameter. Other dimensions can of course be used, but be sure to have this brace stiff enough to stand the pressure without buckling or curving. Hold the brace against the posts about where it is to go and mark the angle at which the ends must be sawed. Do not mortise into the end nor second post. With hatchet or ax dress off just enough to get a slight shoulder above the end of the brace on the end post and below the end of the brace on the second post. Spike both ends of brace securely. This arrangement affords the least chance possible for holding moisture, while a mortise weakens the post and is sure to induce decay by holding moisture.

Wire Brace

No. 8 wire makes a good brace. Place the brace by stapling one end securely to the second post near the ground. Then carry the wire to the top of and around the end post and back to the bottom of second post. With the A. S. & W. Stretcher draw the wire brace as tight as possible and staple to bottom of second post. This method saves splicing. Then with hammer-claw or other implement inserted between the wires and midway between the posts and intersection with wood brace, twist the wire brace until you have a hard cable, and all under good tension. For extra strength and permanency it is a good plan to pass the No. 8 wire twice around the posts or double it.

Line Posts

In wire fence the work of the line posts is minimized, the wind pressure reduced to almost zero, hence the function of the line post is practically confined to holding the fence in line and sustaining at least part of the weight and thus relieving to some extent the strain on the end posts. Therefore the distance between posts can be increased and the diameter of line posts be reduced as compared with that necessary in other than woven wire fences. At the same time, a good strong line post is a good thing and while many place posts from 20 to 40 feet apart, for best results we consider line posts about one rod (16½ feet) apart about right.

Assuming the line posts have been set in line, perpendicular and tamped, we are ready to stretch the fence.

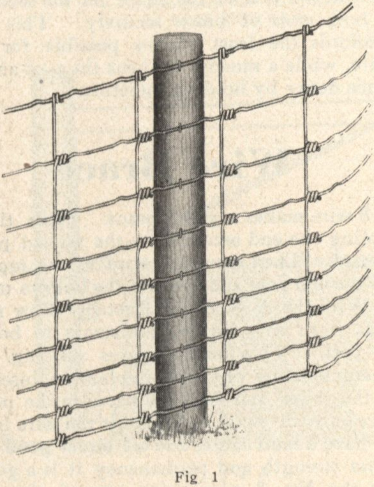


Fig 1

Unroll the fence on the ground, the bottom or small meshes next the posts. Fasten one end of the fence to the end post by a few staples, leaving enough of the fence bars to go clear around the end post and fasten as shown in Fig. 1. Go to the other end of the line and stretch the fence as much as you can by hand while it lies on the ground. Attach stretcher to end post by post chain so that in stretching the braces will not interfere with the working of the stretcher. Connect the end of stretching chain with one of the dogs and by laying the chain on the ground you can measure where the wooden clamp should be put on the fence. Attach the wooden clamp between stays, turning down the nuts on the bolts so tightly that slipping of wires will be impossible. Put the large hook on the wooden clamp, the open side of the hook towards the posts or fence line and so that there are an equal number of line wires above and below the hook. Work the stretcher from the side of posts opposite to that on which the fence is to be fastened. Take up a few links in the stretcher, and if the fence seems to be pulling up even, go to the other end and see that every bar is brought clear around the end post and securely stapled to place as shown in Fig. 2.

If after this slight pull the wires do not appear to be fastened evenly at the starting post, staples can be drawn and the wires adjusted. It is safe to start the fence with the stays parallel to the end post, assuming of course the end post stands perpendicular or so that it will assume a perpendicular position after the strain is on. The stretcher may now be operated and as the fence tightens by a little help it will soon stand up close to the posts, or a staple may be slightly driven over the second bar from the top in such a manner that the stays will not come in contact with the staples as the fence is stretched.

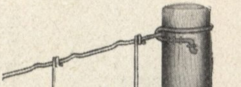


Fig. 2

If the ground is rolling the fence may incline to crush at top of hills, and this should be avoided by raising the fence to position and driving staples over second bar from top. If the fence raises from the ground in low places, step on the bottom bar, forcing the fence to place and staple over bottom bar.

Work the stretcher until the wire fabric is under strong tension and the tension curves much reduced. Don't be afraid to pull the fence, it must be pulled to make a good job. Next with the A. S. & W. Single Wire Stretcher stretch each bar as tight as you can from the wood clamp to the end post and fasten as shown in Fig. 2.

The first operation with the A. S. & W. Stretcher is to draw the wire tight, as shown below, Fig. 3.

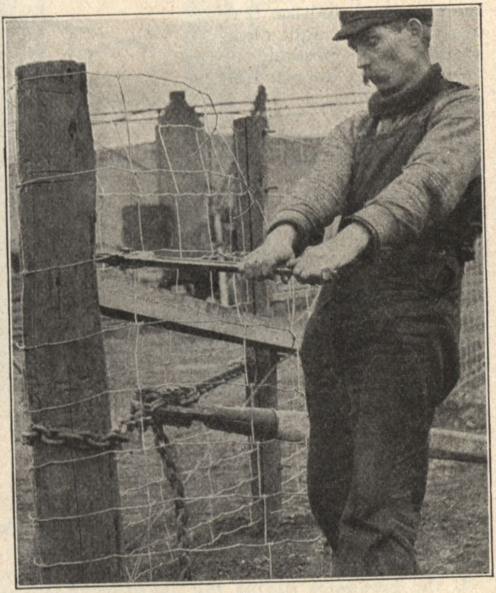


Fig. 3

After the wire is pulled tight, hold the tension with body and staple wire to post, as shown, Fig. 4.

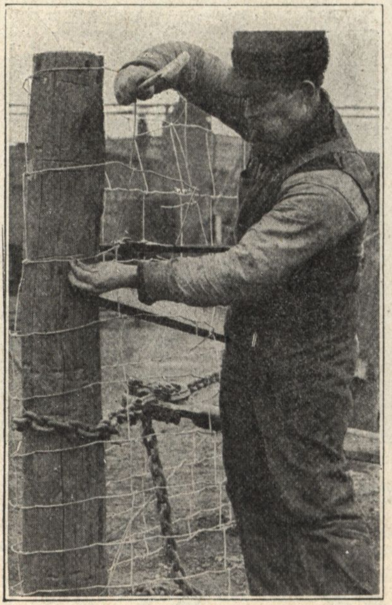


Fig. 4

Then pass the loose end of wire through the fence and bring it back around the bar, draw tight and staple, as shown in Fig. 5.

Staple to every line post, but do not drive staples down, as if you do you are liable to injure the wires. The only staples to be driven down hard are those in the end posts. Take off the heavy stretcher and the job is complete.

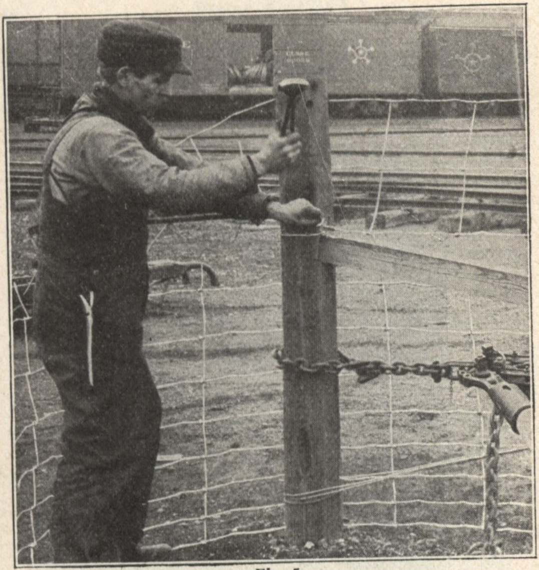
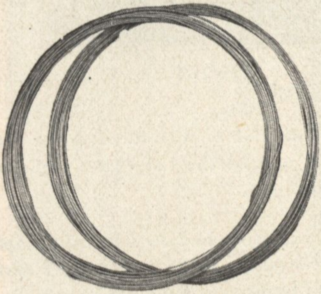


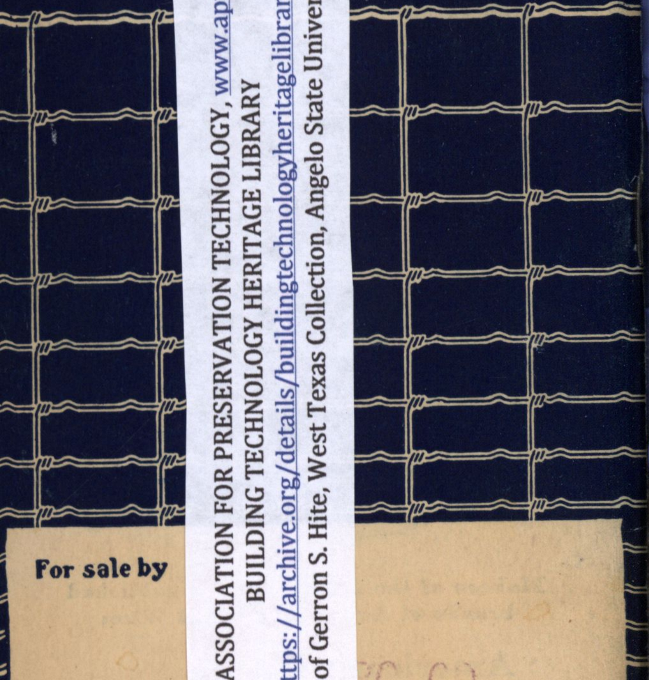
Fig. 5

Brace Wire for End and Corner Posts



We furnish the very best quality of No. 8 galvanized bracing wire put up in coils, each coil containing amply sufficient wire for two braces. This arrangement is a great convenience, insuring the fence builder the proper wire for bracing and at a very reasonable cost. Ask your dealer for our small coils of bracing wire.

Furnished to dealers in 100 lb. lots only.



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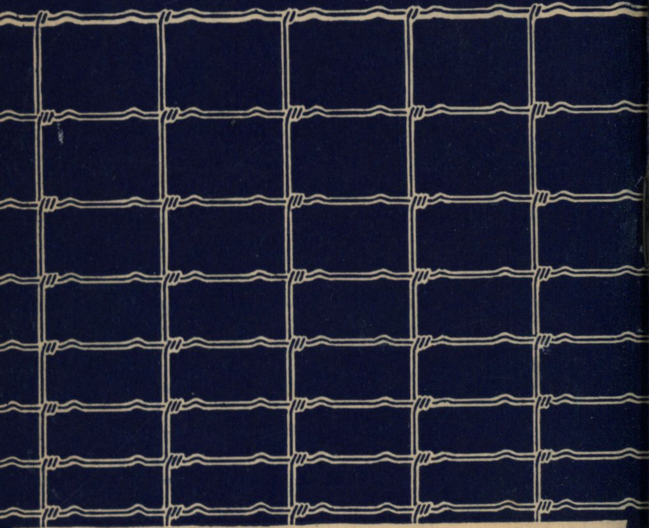

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